

"I think with a national government with a \$14 trillion debt, \$1.65 trillion deficit, Republicans came together in an unprecedented open debate and we passed a resolution that found about \$61 billion in savings. And last week, Democrats in the Senate called that 'reckless, irresponsible, mean-spirited.'

"Harry Reid took to the Floor to defend the Cowboy Poetry Institute. It just convinced me it's time to pick a fight. If we're ever going to fundamentally change the fiscal direction of our national government, I think it's important that this new Republican majority draw a line in the sand, say, 'this far and no further' and in effect demand that the liberals in the Senate and the administration sit down at the table and figure out how we put our fiscal house in order, at least make a down-payment on that and we do it now.

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"Let me just say, I think all House Republicans are united in our commitment to change a fiscal direction. The timing of it here, the strategy and the tactics. But everyone from Speaker John Boehner on down, wants to do the hard work, wants to put our fiscal house in order. I just hold the view that when you run into the kind of recalcitrance and frankly the tone-deafness that we heard last week in the U.S. Senate, it just suggests that sometimes things don't change in Washington, D.C. until they have to. I say we pick a fight on this one. We're going to meet in the morning as a Republican caucus and figure out the strategy going forward, and I'm going to continue to advance with my colleagues that we ought to dig in and we ought to dig in now.

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"The Democrats didn't pass a budget last year, they didn't pass most of their appropriations, that's why we're in the fix that we're in - because the last Congress that got fired by the American people didn't do their job. But this piecemeal approach which began under the last Congress and continues possibly this week is no way to run a railroad. And remember, here's the context: Our national debt is \$14 trillion. The \$61 billion in budget cuts that we passed in our

first Continuing Resolution, you would have to pass that 230 times to equal the national debt. This isn't a down-payment on fiscal discipline, it's earnest money on fiscal discipline. And I think we ought to dig in and fight and that the American people will be on our side if we do."